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SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 1953

E. and I arrived at Voisin for breakfast with the de Fels and their guests at ten o'clock. It was the usual heaping meal before a shoot. The day was cold and damp but we had fine sport with his high pheasants. We killed 200 pheasants, three or four duck, one woodcock - contributed by myself - and a few items which are always classified in a French game bag as "various". Comte de la Raye, the de Fels' son and daughter-in-law, their daughter, Monsieur and Madame Guirche, Comte de Verne, and my old friend the Marquis de Paris were the other guns. The Marquis de Paris is a most elegant and delightful old boy. For fifty years he has been considered one of the finest shots in France and, although he complains that his eyesight has failed to a degree where he finds great difficulty in killing anything, even with his twenty-gauge guns, he is still death to partridges and pheasants. He shoots with great ease and like lightning, and is one of the most courteous sportsmen one could ever encounter. We had a splendid day and arrived home in time for dinner.

The Guirches have a daughter married to a young English nobleman. They live with their infant children in Kenya, 120 kilometers from Nairobi. They refused to leave their farm there, on which lives only one other white man, and Madame Guirche is distressed, and quite naturally so, over this. She has never seen the youngest child and has become panicky over what may happen to the family. During their meals each adult has a loaded rifle, shotgun and revolver on the table and at night they have unreliable native patrols who circulate around the house under flood lights. As an example of how tense the situation must be, when any member of the family goes ~~to the bathroom either the mother~~ or father stands outside with a loaded shotgun.

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Harold Callender called me tonight. He says that at Bermuda Bidault is going to ask for a guarantee by the United States of the retention for some years at least of a stated number of American ground troops on the Continent. Harold had intended to write a piece on the subject but after we conversed at length on the constitutional implications in the United States of considering such a request, he decided to postpone or to kill the article.

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